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U.S. Abets Terrorism, Soviets Say

Tass, Responding to Haig, Says CIA Had Role in Moro Death

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MOSCOW—The Soviet Union, clearly stung by charges that it aids and encourages international terrorist groups, lashed back at the United States on Sunday, charging that Washington is "the main center for the organization of terror" and accusing the United States of complicity in the 1978 kidnaping and murder of former Italian Prime Minister Aldo Moro.

These were among numerous allegations contained in a statement released Sunday by the official news agency Tass. The statement was unusual both for its length—more than 1,000 words—and for the fact that it neither quoted Soviet officials nor carried the name of a particular commentator.

Although obviously aimed as a response to Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig Jr.'s remark last week that the Soviet Union, "by conscious policies," promotes international terrorism, the Tass statement made no reference to Haig.

Nor did it mention the Reagan Administration by name, instead attacking "Western, especially American propaganda that is directed by the U.S. Administration."

Room for Better Relations

It thus appeared intended as a sharp but measured response, one meant not to foreclose the possibility of less thorny relations with the new Administration.

"Terrorism as a means of attaining political aims is deeply alien to the Soviet Union," the Tass statement said. It suggested allegations that Moscow aids and abets terrorist groups were meant to inflame Western fears about a "mythical Soviet threat."

On the contrary, Tass declared, the Central Intelligence Agency is the "main center for the organization of terror, subversion and provocations/plots; the assassination of prominent political and public figures, and the sending of terrorist bands into various states."

Citing a November 1975 Senate investigation and a book by former CIA agent Philip Agee, Tass said the CIA had conspired to kill Cuban Premier Fidel Castro and, in 1961, Congolese leader Patrice Lumumba, had reinstalled the late Shah of Iran in power in 1953 and had helped overthrow Ghana's President Kwame Nkrumah in 1966 and Chile's Marxist President Salvador Allende in 1973.

'Criminal Bands'

Tass also said that the United States is cooperating with South Africa to train and finance guerrilla forces striving to overthrow the government in Angola and that the United States and China are training and equipping "criminal bands" of Afghan insurgents.

Not surprisingly, Tass made no mention of Soviet and Cuban help in installing the present Angolan regime or of the death of Hafizullah Amin, the Afghan president who perished under mysterious circumstances shortly after Soviet troops arrived in December, 1979.

"Is not the training of such bands a most direct and undisguised encouragement of counterrevolutionary terror with the aim of frustrating at all costs the building of new

life in Afghanistan?" Tass asked rhetorically.

"Within the United States, terrorism as a means of attaining political goals has become a daily practice," Tass went on. "The ruling circles of the United States are making wide use of it, not only for the physical elimination of undesirable politicians but also for the suppression of dissidents."

As examples, Tass cited the assassinations of John and Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr.

In Italy, Tass claimed, the CIA "directed the hand of the murderers" of Moro so as to "eliminate that political leader who became undesirable to Washington." Why Moro was ostensibly undesirable to Washington was left unexplained.

Moro was kidnaped in March 1978, and found shot to death 54 days later. The ultraleftist Italian terrorist group, the Red Brigades, took responsibility for both actions.

Embassy Offers No Comment

The United States Embassy here offered no response to the various charges, deferring to the State Department in Washington.

Last week, when Italian President Alessandro Pertini suggested during a French television interview that the Soviet Union was backing the Red Brigades, Moscow protested to the Italian ambassador here that it found such "aspersions on the principled position of the Soviet Union insulting." So far as is known, no such accusation has been made to the United States.

Some Western diplomats in Moscow hailed Haig's remarks about Soviet support of terrorism as refreshingly candid.

"He's absolutely right," a senior Western envoy said. "There is a long history of covert (Soviet) association with these groups."

Diplomats noted that the Soviet Union supplies arms directly and through Cuba and Libya to the Palestine Liberation Organization, among other groups. "We know that lots of groups are trained in North Korea, Vietnam, and they fly across Soviet airspace with the full knowledge of the Soviets as to why they're going there," a diplomat said.

In November, a member of a PLO terrorist squad that killed six Israeli settlers the previous May, told American reporters that he and 20 other guerrillas underwent six months of military training in the Soviet Union.

Captured and imprisoned by Israeli security forces, Adnan Jaber, 32, said he received instruction in the use of light arms and explosives from uniformed Soviet instructors at a training center in the village of Sskhodnaya, seven miles northwest of Moscow.